

VZCZCXRO9429
RR RUEH DU RUEHJO
DE RUEHMR #0190 1101541
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 201541Z APR 06
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2004
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0009
RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 2271

UNCLAS MASERU 000190

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

RANGOON FOR PATRICK MURPHY

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TZ](#) [LT](#)

SUBJECT: TANZANIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LESOTHO

¶1. The newly elected President of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, made an official visit to Lesotho from April 19 to 20, 2006. During his two-day visit, President Kikwete had an audience with His Majesty King Letsie III, and also held talks with Prime Minister Mosisili.

¶2. King Letsie III hosted a banquet in honor of the President. In his speech at the banquet, King Letsie expressed hope that the long established cordial relations between Lesotho and Tanzania be enhanced through future economic and political cooperation. Speaking at the same occasion, President Kikwete stated that the two countries have common history and cooperation established during the reign of the late King Moshoeshoe II and former late President Julius Nyerere. He assured both Basotho and Tanzanians that he will further strengthen the existing cordial relations and indicated that he has already identified strategies, which include unspecified trade exchanges between Lesotho and Tanzania.

¶3. His visit to Lesotho is part of a regional tour meant to familiarize and introduce him to the heads of state and government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. Kikwete was elected President on December 21, 2005, after he won 80% victory in the presidential elections. He succeeds Benjamin Mkapa who visited Lesotho in September 2005. Tanzania is viewed as a supporter of Lesotho during the apartheid era and this visit, according to senior GOL authorities, was essentially one of courtesy to thank the GOT for its role in southern Africa's liberation struggles.

PERRY